

# Burghfield and Mortimer Neighbourhood Action Group

## Minutes of Meeting held on 7 May 2024 in Burghfield Village Hall

**Present:** **NAG Members:** Graham Bridgman (Chair, SMPC), Nick Carter (WBC), Richard Coles (Secretary, Neighbourhood Watch), Sam Crothier (TVP), David Hannington (UNPC), Robert Hubbard-Clarke (TVP), Dudley Ives (Neighbourhood Watch, etc), Oliver Rooke (TVP) and John Wells (SMPC)

**Others:** No members of the public present

### 1 **Chair's opening remarks**

GB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2 **Apologies for absence**

Richard Thorrington (BPC)

### 3 **Minutes of previous meeting (14 February 2024)**

Agreed.

### 4 **Matters arising not otherwise on agenda**

GB reported that there had been as yet no further progress in relation to road restrictions (etc) near to St Mary's School in Mortimer.

There was no further information about the concern raised at the last meeting regarding encroachment of land off Birch Lane.

### 5 **Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team Report**

AM presented the report for 14 February to 7 May 2024 verbally (subsequently provided as the table below) (last period's totals in brackets, and nb that this and the last report period were the same - 12 weeks):

Crime type	Burghfield	Mortimer	Beech Hill	Sulhamstead	Wokefield	Ufton Nervet	Padworth
ASB	9	8	0	2	1	0	1
Criminal Damage	9	11	0	0	0	1	2
Theft from motor vehicle	1	0	0	0	5	0	0
Theft of motor vehicle	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
Burglary dwelling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary non dwelling	2	11	1	0	0	0	1

Crime type	Burghfield	Mortimer	Beech Hill	Sulhamstead	Wokefield	Ufton Nerve	Padworth
Theft	4	6	0	2	0	0	1
Assault-injury	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Assault - non injury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoplifting	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total	36 (59)	39 (24)	1 (0)	5 (2)	6 (0)	1 (0)	5 (11)

RH-C introduced OR as a newly seconded member of the TVP neighbourhood team who would be with the team for a year, following which (it was anticipated) he would be replaced by another seconded – the team now consisted of an inspector, a sergeant, four constables and three PCSOs.

RH-C mentioned two particular aspects of the report – shoplifting in Burghfield and burglary non dwelling in Mortimer.

With regard to shoplifting, SC said that TVP had conducted an operation in respect of the Co-op stores in Burghfield and Theale, involving a large number of hours of police time. The result was that an individual, that SC described as a prolific shoplifter, had been prosecuted and convicted. He had been given a Criminal Behaviour Order and was banned from the two Co-ops as well as being told that he must leave any other shop in West Berkshire if asked to do so. Shoplifting at the Burghfield store had dropped by 66% since the prosecution.

The increase in burglaries non dwelling in Mortimer resulted from a number of thefts from sheds in College Piece.

The team referred to a resurgence of catapult incidents in Mortimer – the situation was being monitored, along with cases of bikes being stolen and ‘knock, knock, run’ incidents.

As always, the message from TVP was to report all crimes.

## 6 Parishes and other NAG representatives – reports and observations

Mortimer (JW) – nothing to report beyond what TVP had reported upon.

Ufton Nerve (DH) – confirmed that the Sulhamstead motor vehicle theft related to a mini bus.

(Burghfield – prior to the meeting RT had included questions for TVP in his email giving apologies for absence, but GB had forgotten to raise. GB raised post-meeting and RH-C responded.

*Q: The only issue of note I have is an increased number of dangerous motorbike (scramblers) riding, both on roads and across woodlands. I'm not sure if this is something the police are aware of and have a plan to monitor/deal with?*

*Concerns were raised by allotment owners about an increase in theft and BPC have agreed to check with allotment owners to see how widespread this is.*

*A: Yes we have had a number of reports of off road bikes in Burghfield Common riding around the village and the woods of Mortimer. I am in the process of making a request for our off road bike unit from the Road Policing department to patrol the village and woodlands. I am*

*not authorised to pursue them so I am limited on what action we can take once they make off. If we get names or address of the persons involved then we can remove the bikes etc.*

*And yes we are aware of the incidents of criminal damage at the local allotments in Burghfield Common.)*

7      **AOB**

None.

8      **Venue for, date and time of next meeting**

14 June at 19:30 in Mortimer (if venue can be found, or Burghfield if not) – will be the Annual Meeting.